

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 00689 091942Z

67
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-10

NSAE-00 PA-02 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 NSC-05 MC-02 /080 W
----- 123234

R 091826Z FEB 76
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5861
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 5825
USIA WASHDC
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
USLОСACLANT
CINSLANT

UNCLAS USNATO 0689

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: NATO, PFOR, MARR
SUBJ: PRESS STORIES ON SACLANT CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR SOUTH
ATLANTIC

1. FOLLOWING ATICLE BY MALCOLM RUTHERFORD DATEDLINE BURSSELS
FEB 4 APPEARED IN LAONDON FINANCIAL TIMES OF FEB 5 UNDER CAPTION
"FEAR OF RUSSIAN BASES ON ANGOLA COAST--NATO NAVAL TASK FORCE
AS COUNTER
TO SOVIET THREAT." BEGIN TEXT.

NATO HAS DEVELOPED A CONTINGENCY PLAN TO COUNTER SOVIET NAVAL
INTERFERENCE WITH SHIPPING OUTSIDE THE TRADITIONAL NORTH
ATLANTIC TREATY AREA, INCLUDING THE SOUTH ATLANTIC OFF
ANGOLA, SOURCES REVEALED HERE TO-DAY.

THE PLANS INCLUDE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SMALL NATO TASK FORCE
COMPOSED OF ONE LARGE COMMAND SHIP, THREE OR FOUR FRIGATES,
A SUBMARINE AND A FEW SUPPORT SHIPS COMING FROM THE NATO
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 NATO 00689 091942Z

COUNTRIES CAPABLE OF CONTRIBUTING.

ALTHOUGH NATO FORCES INSIST THAT THE PLANS WERE PREPARED
BEFORE THE RECENT EVENTS IN ANGOLA. THE READINESS TO TALK

ABOUT THEM NOW IS CLEARLY RELATED TO THE ANGOLAN SITUATION AND TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE RUSSIANS WILL SET UP NAVAL BASES ALONG THE ANGOLAN COAST.

MILITARILY THE PAINS, IF IMPLEMENTED, WOULD BE DESIGNED TO SHOW THAT ANY SOVIET INTERFERENCE WITH WESTERN SHIPPING WOULD BE SEEN AS AN ATTACK ON THE ALLIANCE AS A WHOLE, EVEN IF IT TOOK PLACE OUTSIDE THE FORMAL TREATY AREA.

THE FORCE WOULD BE PREPARED TO ENTER ANY AREA WHERE THE RUSSIANS THREATENED TROUBLE EVEN IF THE SOVIET ACTION FELL WELL SHORT OF OPEN HOSTILITY. ONE SUGGESTION IS THE PLANS COULD GO INTO ACTION IF THE RUSSIANS SIMPLY DECLARED THAT PART OF A TRADITIONAL TRADE ROUTE SHOULD BE CLOSED TO SHIPPING TO ALLOW FOR NAVAL EXERCISES.

THE PURPOSE WOULD BE TO DEMONSTRATE THE NATO READINESS TO USE FORCE IF NECESSARY IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THE FREEDOM OF THE SEAS AND TO REEMPHASISE THE PRINCIPLE THAT AN ATTACK ON ONE NATO MEMBER WOULD BE REGARDED AS AN ATTACK ON ALL.

THE INITIAL PLANS WERE PRODUCED -- WITH THE BLESSING OF THE NATO COUNCIL OF MINISTERS -- IN THE EARLY 1970S WHEN THE EMERGENCY OF A SOVIET HIGH SEAS FLEET FIRST BECAME A SERIOUS FACTOR IN NATO'S STRATEGIC THINKING, BUT THEY HAVE BEEN REFINED SEVERAL TIMES SINCE.

THEIR POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE LIES IN THE FACT THAT MINISTERS FROM NATO COUNTRIES HAVE CONSISTENTLY DENIED THAT THE ALLIANCE WAS CONSIDERING, EVEN ON PAPER, ANY ACTION SOUTH OF THE TROPIC OF CANCER, THE GEOGRAPHICAL LIMITATION LAID DOWN IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY OF 1949.

THE STRONGEST OBJECTIONS TO WIDENING THE ALLIANCE'S AREA OF ACTIVITIES HAVE COME FROM THE DUTCH AND THE DANES AND TO SOME EXTENT THE BRITISH LABOUR GOVERNMENT. BUT IN NO CASE HAS THERE BEEN ANY OBJECTION TO CONTINGENCY PLANNING OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 NATO 00689 091942Z

KIND NOW WELL UNDER WAY, PROVIDED THAT OUTSIDE NATIONS SUCH AS SOUTH AFRICA ARE NOT INVOLVED.

THE BELIEF IN NATO HEADQUARTERS IS THAT THE PLANS COULD BE ADOPTED WITHOUT ANY CHANGE IN THE ORIGINAL TREATY AND HAVE BECOME AN ESSENTIAL PART OF DETERRENCE.

END TEXT.

2. SEPARATE TELEGRAM FOLLOWS WITH MISSION COMMENTS. STREATOR

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 30 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NATO00689
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197602100/baaaavsw.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 SEP 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 SEP 2004 by meiwc>; APPROVED <08 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: NATO, PFOR, MARR
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
USIA
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
USLOSACLANT

CINSLANT

Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006